# The Mysterious Monogram

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Continued Chapter V.

ed down stairs and the arrival of Dodon in the smoke room?"

"Possibly. Or it man have occurred violent struggle and there is a great leal of blood upon them."

But you do not think Dodson struck the blow-do you?"

"No, there is no reason for such a lief. It is my opinion that the man Januilled Towneshend strangled afterwards. It is possible that and twas a witness of the actual meator else entered the room in drun, see the murderer leaving by per d escape. Townesheud must closen killed as he sat in his chair, tory to more inclined to believe

Phoson entered just before the Valley struck. There was probruggle as Dodson attempted for but the man from leaving by Citizercape, but the other was too capital him. Apparently Dodson were im down the fire escape and organi to take the sheath of the It was clutched so tightly in is fingers that it was all I could do remove it."

It is strange that Dodson did not ake some outcry, or that his cries ere not heard by anyone in the lub," said Carrington.

"Perhaps he did call for aid," Macse said. "There were but a few serints in the club at the time and all them were in another part of the allding. At the foot of the iron stairay, however, the final struggle came. was probably because Dodson was alling for aid that the murderer rangled him-having left his knife poor Towneshend's body."

Your theory then is-

Mr. Carrington, I have no theory. agyer form conclusions until I am ady to act."

the problem than you were bere?" Harcourt asked. 'No. In fact I am farther from it the fellow that's the least use." an I was this afternoon, and I may

lieved that such is the case." "How so?" asked Harcourt.

'Had it not been for the develop-

nd the possibilities they have sug- horrid, Mr. Carrington?"

Agrest me? How annoying!" o straighten out this matter within a few hours, and thus relieve you of the unpleasant predicament in which you nd yourself at the present moment." "I'm sure I hope so," said Harcourt arnestly. "I really don't fancy this ort of thing at all, and tomorrow I vish to go out to my country seat for he would be obliged to leave early. the week end."

"By all means go," said MacBee. "There is nothing you can do here. and if you should be needed I can easily reach you by wire. If Scotland Yard should require your presence for any reason it would not be a very difficult matter to locate a man so well known as your lordship," he concluded with a smile.

"You don't imagine I'm going to run away, do you?" Harcourt asked. "Of course not," MacBee quickly assured him. "On the contrary, your attitude from the beginning has been most commendable, if I may be permitted to express my appreciation of he fact."

"Thank you," said Harcourt, lookog at his watch. "If you will excuse me, it is time Mr. Carrington and I ere starting, Mr. Cornish, the American you met this afternoon, is giving there and when I leave his house, will either come directly home or drop in at the Grill club."

"If anything transpires in the meantime, I shall not forget to advise you," MacBee promised and hurried away.

Harcourt stood silently by the table fter the inspector had gone. He was hinking of the strange monogram and wondering if Carrington had noticed it. Once he was about to mention the uncanny device, but thought better of it just as Fergus appeared to announce that the limousine was are uncanny-like the half breeds we waiting below.

### CHAPTER VI.

# The Monagram Once More.

The streets adjoining the mansion London season, were thronged with subject. carriages and motor cars. One by one across the sidewalk and emptied jected. groups of distinguished men and

You believe, then," said Carring- rington entered the house they found quite unable to conceal his infatuation Then he began to chafe her wrists, on, "that the murder was committed themselves lost in a perfect crush of for her. Thoroughly American, she between the time Lord Harcourt start- people making their way up the mar- had the charm and ease of manner appeared behind him. ble stairs.

hile Dodson was in the room. His court. Now and then someone nodded ing her height with the utmost grace, lothing shows quite plainly marks of to him and a whispered remark in- she made a stunning figure in her low scrutiny, but his manner was calm ment of Carrington's. bored than any one else present.

> From the cloak room they made you and little me." their way slowly to the great salon, lavishly decorated with palms and didn't mean you Mr. Carrington. I alspring flowers, the magnificence of most forgot to tell Lord Harcourt which was subordinated by the gorg- that Miss Marston is in the conserveous costumes of the rapidly arriv- atory." ing guests. Thanks to his great wealth and the sponsorship of the suggested. "Surely the conservatory American ambassador, the host and is sufficiently large to enable us to his daughter had met many well leave them alone there without reknown Londoners, and being liked de- turning here ourselves." spite the somewhat bluff Western in the capital.

In the throng were many titled persons, cabinet officers, members of Guards, came up. parliament, diplomats and scores of uniforms were conspicuous amid the asked. latest Parision creations of many beautiful women whose throats and hair glistened with brilliant jewels.

"It's splendid of you to find time to fact at all," Adele answered. come to us when you must have so much to occupy you," Adele Cornish said as she greeted Harcourt.

"I'm glad to see you, too," Cornish plained. joined in laying his powerful hand upon Harcourt's shoulder. "I didn't know but what the police might have detained you as a suspicious character. Out in Arizona where my ranch "Then you are no nearer a solution gers in the town after a row in a gambling joint. Then if he can't find the man who did the killing he hangs

"Rather a clever idea," said Hary to you, sir, that in one way I am court with a smile. "In that case I'm sure to go free for they'll hang Dicky here. I'll speak to MacBee about it."

"Father!" protested Adele with a Harcourt did once." ents we have just been discussing, smile. Don't you think they are both

rested to me, I should have been "Indeed, I do," Carrington said ged to place you under arrest, my promptly. "I positively decline to be court. "Something extremely unimarrested unless you are the sheriff."

"While you're about it, Adele," Cor-'As it is, sir, I think I shall be able nish said in a quiet tone, "You'd better arrest this fellow Kandwahr, too," meaning.

"Is he here tonight?" Carrington

"He was," said Adele. "I saw him only a few moments ago, but he said

Then, as she and Carrington chatted together, Cornish led Harcourt to one side. "I hope you understood my remarks," he said seriously. This has been a particularly nasty affair, and I can appreciate what it means to you. It is a fortunate thing that you have your position to protect you-otherwise things might have been far more disagreeable. I certainly hope you will be free of all this annoyance soon and if there is anything at all that I can do, please do not hesitate to call upon me."

"You are very good, Mr. Cornish, Harcourt said, "but I hardly anticipate any further trouble. We shall go to Harcourt Manor tomorrow as I planned, and it will be most pleasant for me to have you and Miss Cornish there with me. I am very glad that you are able to come."

"So are we," Cornish replied. "And now, if you will pardon my saying so, a reception this evening. I am going I should advise you not to make any more breaks such as you made this morning. It is well enough, perhaps, to say such things among your personal friends, but it's damned risky declaring them openly before strangors.

"Every man there was an intimate

"Exactly," Cornish interrupted. And that is the man I particularly commend to the attention of the police. I don't like these Indians. They find in Arizona only more mysteri-

"Yet it seems impossible that he could have been the man," said Harcourt, in the hope that Cornish would that Henry Cornish had leased for the express a further opinion upon the

"Not half so impossible as your they paused before the canopy spread having done it," the American ob-

"Thank you," said Harcourt turn- arms. Sick at heart, he laid her handsomely gowned women. Lord ing to watch Carrington as he talked tenderly back upon the bench and for Harcourt's was but one of many cars with the host's daughter. She was a a moment stepped away. Quickly he

their doors, and when he and Car-|cially so to Carrington who seemed that most of his own country-women There were many Americans there, lacked. Tall and straight of figure, as forward, inquiring anxiously what and but few close by recognized Har- well built as Harcourt, and yet carryvariably followed - remarks that cut evening gown. Her wealth of goldcaused others to turn and stare with en hair was splendidly coiffured, and polite curiosity at the new arrival. her deep blue eyes sparkled as she back to her. It has proved too Unpleasantly, Harcourt felt their laughingly replied to some compli-

and to the eyes of those who studied "It's going to be awfully jolly out his perfectly composed features, he at Harcourt's place with you," Carseemed quite as carefree as any of rington said. "It will only be a small the guests, and perhaps a little more party-Grace and Sir Thomas Marston, Sir Harry Farnsdale, your father,

"Dear me!" Adele exclaimed. "No, I

"Let's lead him there," Carrington

But Carrington's hopes of a tete-a manner of the father they had been tee were dashed, for as Harcourt taken up by everyone who was anyone joined them, Sir Harry Farndale, impesing looking in his magnificent red and white uniform of the Horse

military men whose gorgeous dress talking to you, Miss Marston?" he "He's been telling me that he will have a title some day and much to my

"What nonsense has Dicky been

surprise, doesn't seem to relish the "Of course I don't and you wouldn't either if you knew how much it takes to keep one up!" Carrington ex-

"But you inherit vast property with it, don't you?" Adele asked.

"Yes but it's all entailed!" Carrington said miserably, "I'm poor enough now, but then I'll be stone broke! Beis, the sheriff rounds up all the loun- sides I'll have to work when I'm a lord!"

> "Work? Are the duties of a noble man so arduous?" "Certainly, One has to go to the

House and listen to all sorts of silly

"I can't imagine Dicky making a speech," said Farndale, "although

"Oh what was it about?" Adele asked eagerly.

"I really don't remember, said Har-

"That's the funny part of it," Farndale explained. "No one seemed to have the faintest idea what he was He spoke with a quick glance full of trying to get at, so they all voted it master piece."

The soft strains of a popular Viennese waltz reached them and before Carrington could speak, Farndale laimed Adele and hurried her away.

"Uniforms are worth more than prospective titles, Dick," said Harcourt banteringly, and was sworn at for his pains, so he left Carrington to his own devices and sauntered away towards the conservatory.

In a distant corner he found Grace seated behind a bank of palms. She smiled as he approached, and made room for him on the bench beside her.

"You've quite forgiven me?" Harcourt asked anxiously. "Really, I must be out of my mind to have behaved so this afternoon." "I understand, Jack," she said in-

dulgently. "And I can't blame you. Now, please, let's say no more about

"I'd like to forget all about it as well," said Harcourt earnestly, "Have you seen Kandwahr tonight?"

"No," said Grace. "Is he here?" "Yes, but no one has seen him for the last half hour."

"I didn't notice him anywhere," Grace said. "I was in the salon until a few minutes before you came and

She stopped abruptly and followed Harcourt's gaze. He was staring at the box of the great palm at his elbow. She looked up quickly and was friend with the exception of yourself about to speak when the look in his eyes stopped her and she could only stare at him in wonder.

"Grace," he said. "I don't know why you are trying to deceive me, but you are not telling the truth!"

She grew pale and her body trembled. "Jack!" she exclaimed. "What on earth-"

"If you won't tell me I have nothing more to say," he went on rapidly. But we might as well understand each other now. Our engagement must be broken. If you won't do it I will-here tonight-publicly."

He saw her sway and caught her as she fell limp and unconscious into his with ancient arms emblazoned on particularly attractive girl, and espe- looked about, and making sure that

no one observed him, he bent down and picked something from the palm box. It was the tiny-blackened end of a cigarette. The ash was half an inch long, but in it showed quite plainly the mysterious monogram.

It was an easy matter to crumble it beyond recognition, and not until he had done so did Harcourt turn his attention to the unconscious girl. just as Sir Harry Farndale and Adele

With a cry of alarm, Adele hurried had happened.

"Miss Marston's nerves have given way, I am afraid," Harcourt said. "She is overwrought, and our conversation brought the strain of the day much."

"Poor dear!" Adele exclaimed.. We must get her to my boudoir at once. Sir Harry, would you mind sending a servant to fetch my maid?"

Farndale turned to go, but Harcourt put a restraining hand upon his arm. "Be careful, Harry. Not a word. to anyone-not even that she is ill. There is gossip enough now and this will only start more tongues wagging if it becomes known,"

(To be continued)

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